

Remarks/Arguments:

Claims 1-6 are rejected. Claims 1 and 2 have been amended. No new matter has been added.

Claims 1-4 and 6 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over applicant's admitted prior art of figure 12 [AAPA] in view of Kitahara et al. (JP-02-232915). It is respectfully submitted, however, that these claims are now patentable over the art of record for the reasons set forth below.

Applicants' invention, as recited in amended claim 1 includes features which are neither disclosed nor suggested by the art of record, namely:

... a first magnetic sheet ...

... a second magnetic sheet ...over a first surface of said first sheet ...

... a third sheet under said first sheet ...

These features are supported by page 4, lines 15-16; Fig. 1 and page 6, lines 24-26; Fig. 6.

AAPA of figure 12 discloses a laminated device containing all dielectric sheets. This is described in the Applicants' description on pages 2, line 12 and denoted by the lined surfaces of sheets 101a, 101b and 101c of figure 12. Applicants, however, disclose a laminated device containing magnetic first and second sheets; as shown in Figs. 1 and 6 where the dotted surfaces denote magnetic material.

Kitahara et al. discloses a chip type LC composite ceramic component with a mixed sintered body containing a dielectric compound. The LC composite component is formed by a lamination substrate without putting together two kinds of lamination substrates, as disclosed in the last 3 lines of Constitution of Kitahara et al. Kitahara et al. does not disclose nor suggest a laminated sintered LC device comprising a plurality of layers nor where the layers are magnetic sheets.

Applicants' combination of "... a first magnetic sheet ... a second magnetic sheet ... over a first surface of said first sheet ... a third sheet under said first sheet..." as claimed allows the isolation between inductors to be improved. This is exemplified by the isolation between inductors shown in Figs. 5A and 5B for a laminated body (in accordance with an exemplary embodiment of the present invention) composed of magnetic and dielectric material respectively. The isolation between inductors may be improved by about 10 dB when using magnetic material. The magnetic material of the sheets within the laminated body having relative permeabilities larger than 1 reduces the mutual electro-magnetic effect between the inductors in the laminated body. The mutual interference between the inductors is reduced and thus an LPF having ideal characteristic may be formed even if the inductor patterns are formed close to each other.

Applicants' combination of "... a first magnetic sheet ... a second magnetic sheet ... over a first surface of said first sheet ... a third sheet under said first sheet..." as claimed additionally allows the inductor patterns to have a large characteristic impedance, thus enabling short inductor patterns. This is exemplified by Embodiment 1. The LPF of Embodiment 1 has

magnetic sheets of large relative permeability. The characteristic impedance of the inductor patterns may thus be increased without necessitating a reduction of the inductor pattern width. This allows the inductor pattern to be thick and short, thus a resistance loss in the inductor pattern may be reduced. Thus, an LPF having a high Q value and a small loss may be provided.

Applicants' claimed features of a first magnetic sheet and a second magnetic sheet over a first surface of said first sheet are neither disclosed nor suggested by the art of record. Accordingly, allowance of amended claim 1 is respectfully requested.

Claims 2-4 and 6 include all of the features of claim 1 from which they depend. Thus claims 2-4 and 6 are also patentable over the art of record.

Claim 5 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over AAPA in view of Kitahara et al. as applied to claims 1-4 and further in view of Kawakami et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,426,551). Claim 5 includes all of the features of amended claim 1 from which it depends.

AAPA and Kitahara et al. are described above. Kawakami discloses a composite laminate with base layers 6 and 7 of low-dielectric coefficient layers, as shown in Fig. 1. A functional layer 8 may be of high dielectric-coefficient material, column 4, lines 27-33 or of magnetic material, column 5, lines 55-58. Base layers 6 and 8 of low-dielectric coefficient layers do not comprise a plurality of magnetic insulating layers. Base layer 6 of low-dielectric coefficient is not equivalent to second magnetic sheet 1a of Fig. 1 of applicants' invention. Thus, Kawakami et al. does not make up for the features that are lacking in AAPA and Kitahara et al.

Tanaka et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,498,553) discloses a laminated type inductor. Tanaka et al. does not disclose "... first and second capacitor patterns ..." as cited in amended claim 1. Tanaka et al. does not make up for the features that are lacking in AAPA, Kitahara et al. and Kawakami et al.

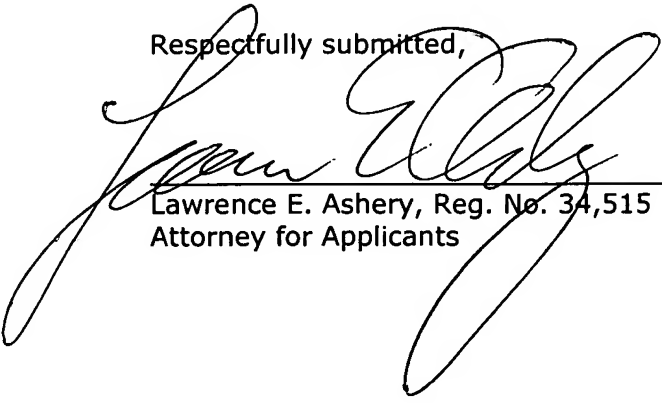
Thus, even by combining the art of record, Applicants' claimed features of a first magnetic sheet, a second magnetic sheet over a first surface of said first sheet are neither disclosed nor suggested by the prior art of record. Accordingly, Claim 5 is also patentable over the art of record.

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In view of the amendments and arguments set forth above, the above-identified application is in condition for allowance which action is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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